

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 222 360 (13) A

(43) Date of A publication 07.03.1990

(21) Application No 8914704.5

(22) Date of filing 27.06.1989

(30) Priority data

(31) 8819854

(32) 22.08.1988

(33) GB

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(51) INT CL^{*}

A44B 15/00

(52) UK CL (Edition J)

A4G G1

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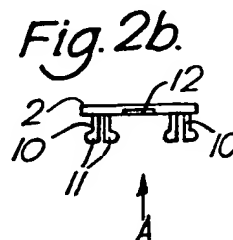
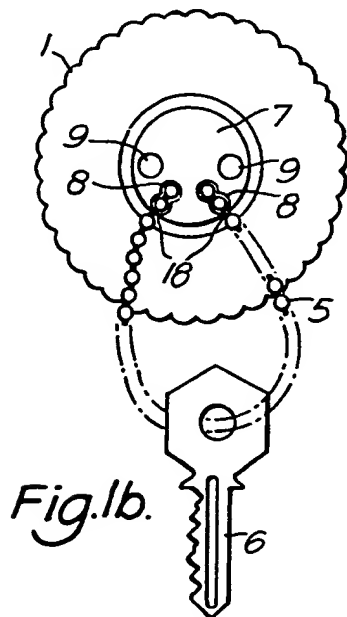
(58) Field of search

UK CL (Edition J) A4G

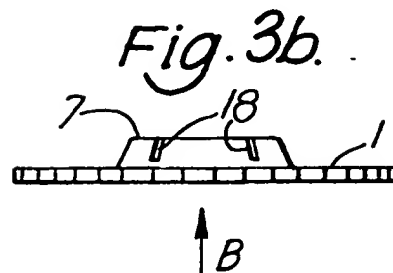
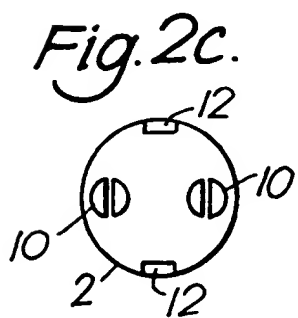
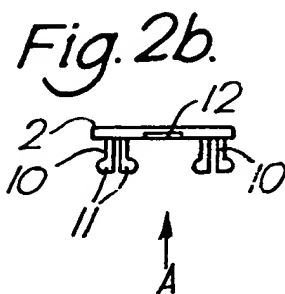
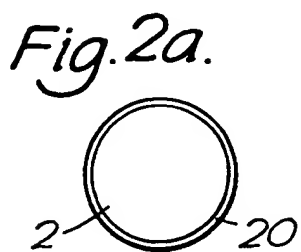
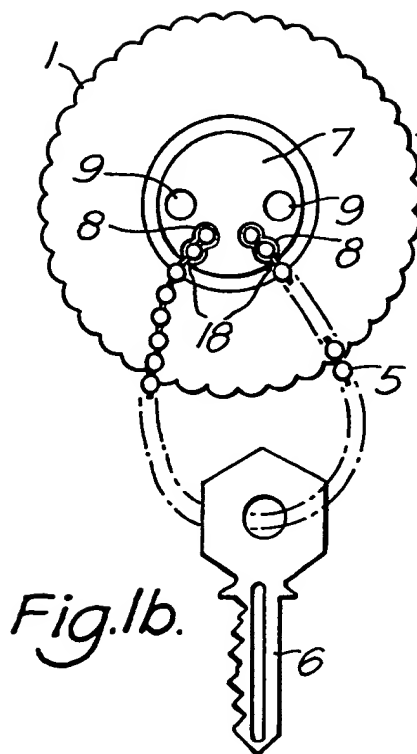
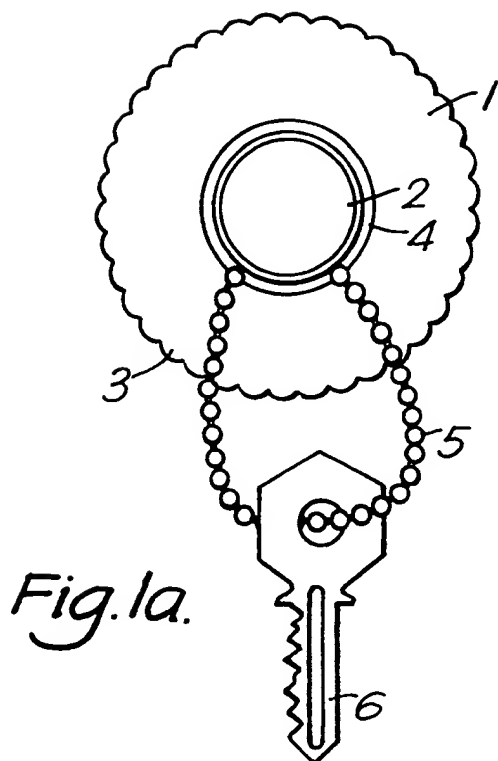
INT CL^{*} A44B, A45C, A47G

(54) Key holder

(57) A key holder comprises an elongate connecting element e.g. a chain 5, for carrying keys 6, a base member 1, and a cap 2, the cap being removably attachable to the base member and the base member and the cap being adapted to cooperate with one another to form the shape of a hat and to provide means for the retention of the ends of the connecting element. The chain ends are captured in depressions 8 in base 1 when resilient lugs 10 on cap 2 are pressed into holes 9 opening into cavities (17, Fig 5a) in base 1.



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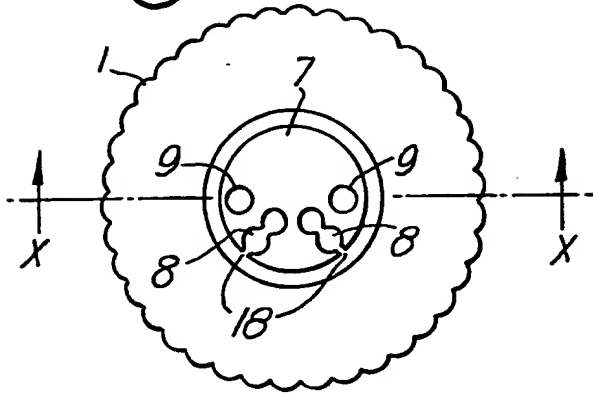
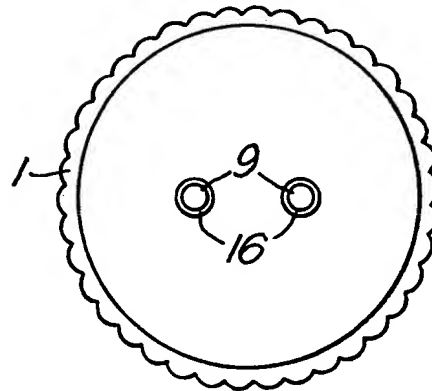
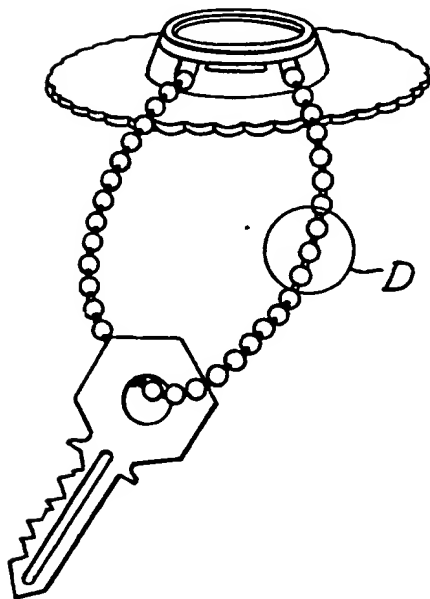
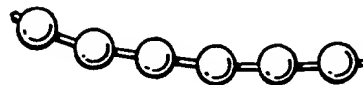
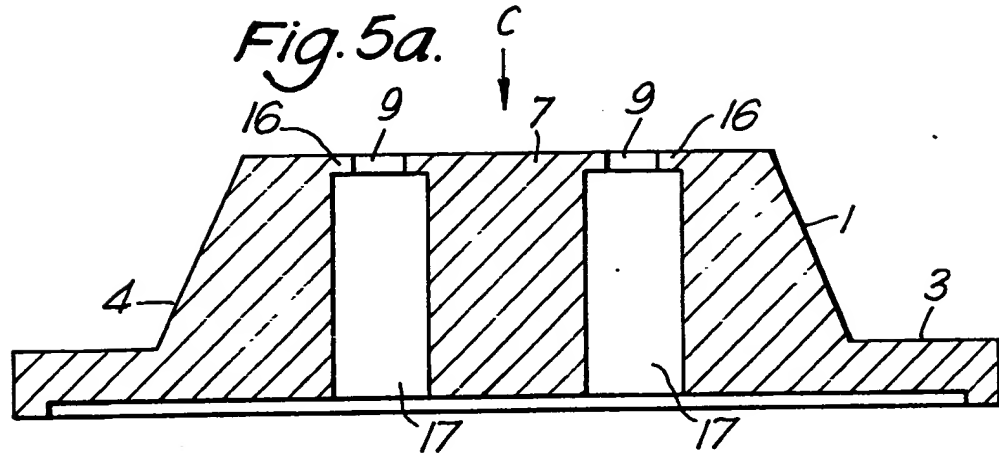
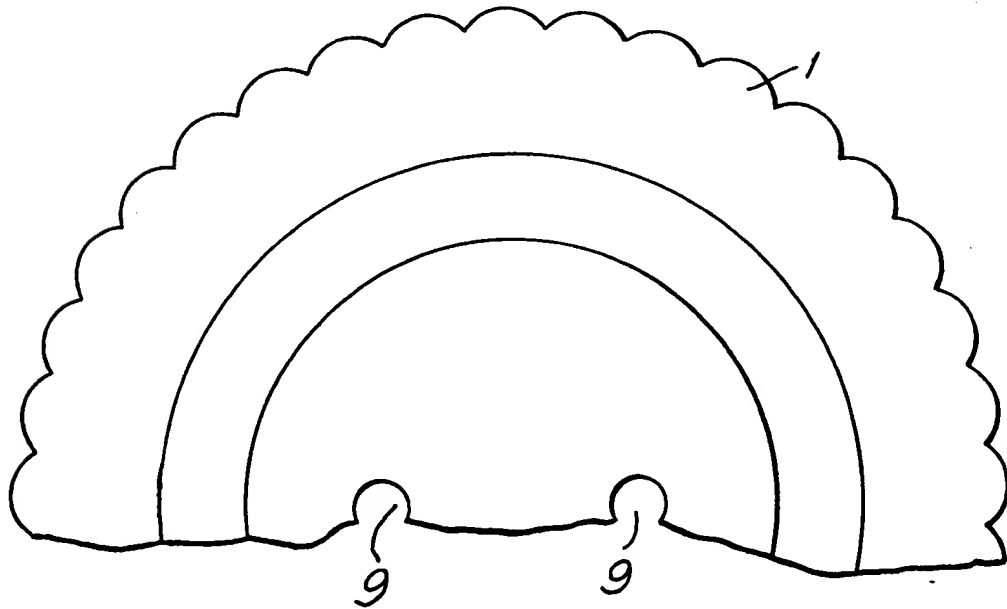
Fig. 3a.*Fig. 4.**Fig. 6.**Fig. 7.*

Fig. 5a.*Fig. 5b.*

KEY HOLDER

The present invention relates to a key holder.

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According to the present invention there is provided a key holder comprising an elongate connecting element for carrying keys, a base member, and a cap, the cap being removably attachable to the base member, and 10 the base member and the cap being adapted to cooperate with one another so as to provide means for the retention of respective end portions of the said connecting element.

15 Preferably, the said means for retention of each of the end portions of the connecting element comprises a partial enclosure therefor formed by cooperation of the cap and base member as aforesaid.

20 In preferred embodiments, the said means for retention of each of the end portions of the connecting element comprises a depression in a surface of the base member, the cap being adapted to cooperate with the depressions to prevent removal of the end portions of 25 the connecting element therefrom. For example, the cap may be adapted to extend over the said depressions when attached to the base member, thereby to capture the end portions of the connecting element in the depressions.

30 The said elongate connecting element may be, for example, a cord or string having a knob at either end thereof, which knobs constitute the said end portions of the connecting element. Alternatively, for example, the elongate connecting element may comprise a chain.

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Preferably, the connecting element is a ball-link

chain and each of the the said end portions of the
element comprises at least one link of the chain. In
this case it is preferred that the said depressions in
the base member are adapted to receive two links at both
05 ends of the chain for increased strength.

The cap may be removably attachable to the base
member by means of at least one projecting lug on one of
the base member and cap for reception in a corresponding
10 hole or recess in the other of the base member and cap.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the
base member and cap cooperate to form the shape of a
hat, the brim of the hat providing a rest for the
15 elongate connecting element when a key is to be added to
or removed from the connecting element, and the crown of
the hat being adapted to provide the said means for
retention of the end portions of the connecting element.
For example, the cap may form a cover or lid for the
20 crown of the hat, such that removal of the cap exposes a
surface having the said depressions for reception of the
end portions of the connecting element.

It will be appreciated that the invention provides
25 a convenient key holder, keys being quickly and easily
added to or removed from the connecting element.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be
described by way of example with reference to the
30 accompany drawings in which:

Figure 1a is a plan view of a key holder embodying
the invention;

35 Figure 1b shows the key holder of Figure 1a with
the cap removed;

Figure 2a is a plan view of the cap of the key holder of Figure 1a;

05 Figure 2b is a side view of the cap of Figure 2a;

Figure 2c is a plan view on "A" of Figure 2b;

10 Figures 3a and 3b are a plan view and a side view respectively of the base member of the key holder of Figure 1a;

Figure 4 shows the under-surface of the base member of Figures 3a and 3b;

15 Figure 5a is a diagrammatic cross section on X-X of Figure 3a;

Figure 5b is a plan view on "C" of Figure 5a;

20 Figure 6 is a diagrammatic representation of a key holder showing the general effect of the invention, and

Figure 7 is an enlarged view of inset D in Figure 6.

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Figure 1a shows a key holder embodying the invention comprising a base member 1 and a cap 2 which cooperates with the base member to form the shape of a hat. The base member 1 constitutes the brim 3 and the crown 4 of the hat, the cap 2 constituting a lid for the crown 4. The key holder further comprises an elongate connecting element in the form of a ball-link chain 5 for carrying a key 6, the end portions of which chain are captured by cooperation of the cap 2 and base member 1.

35 1.

Figure 1b shows the key holder of Figure 1a with the cap 2 removed. A surface 7 of the base member 1 has depressions 8 therein for reception of respective end portions of the chain 5, the last two links at both ends of the chain 5 constituting the said end portions. Two windows 18 in the wall of the base member 1 allow passage of the chain 5 therethrough. The surface 7 of the base member 1 also has two holes 9 therein, the purpose of which holes will be described hereinafter.

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Figures 3a and 3b show a plan and side view respectively of the base member 1 of Figure 1b with the chain 5 removed.

15 Figure 2a is a plan view of the cap 2 which has a raised rim 20 around the outer perimeter thereof. The under-surface of the cap 2 is provided with two projecting lugs 10, each of which lugs is split along a longitudinal axis to provide a gap between the two composite halves thereof. The lugs 10 are provided with enlarged end portions 11. The cap 2 is also provided with two diametrically opposed relieved portions 12 as most easily seen in Figure 2c.

25 Figure 4 shows the under-surface of the base member 1 showing the holes 9 through the surface 7 of the base member.

Figure 5a is a diagrammatic cross section along X-X of Figure 3a showing the interior structure of the base member 1. It can be seen from this figure that the raised central portion of the base member 1 is in the shape of the crown 4 of a hat, the outer portion of the base member constituting the brim 3 of the hat. The 35 holes 9 in the surface 7 of the base member are bordered

by ridges 16 and open into the cavities 17 which have a larger diameter than the holes 9 and extend through the base member to the under-surface thereof.

05 To use the key holder, the base member 1 is supported with the surface 7 thereof facing upwards. A key 6 is then threaded onto the chain 5 and the last two links of each end of the chain are placed in the corresponding recess 8 in the surface 7 of the base
10 member. The portion of the base member 1 constituting the brim 3 of the hat acts as a convenient rest for supporting the chain, the chain being held against the brim 3 until the cap has been attached to the base member as follows. The cap 2 is positioned over the
15 surface 7 of the base member so that the projecting lugs 10 are aligned with the holes 9. The cap 2 is then pressed towards the surface 7 so that the composite halves of each lug 10 are forced together until the effective diameter of each lug 10 is sufficiently small
20 to allow the enlarged end portions 11 to pass through the holes 9. When the portions 11 pass through the holes 9 into the cavities 17 the composite halves of each lug then spring apart so that the lugs 10 are retained in the cavity 17 by abutment of the enlarged
25 portions 11 with the ridges 16.

When the cap 2 is attached to the base member 1 as described above, the cap 2 acts as a cover for the depressions 8, preventing removal of the ends of the
30 chain from the said depressions without the cap 2 being removed first. The windows 18 in the wall of the base member 1 have a smaller width than that of the links of the chain 5 to prevent removal of the links captured in the depressions 8 through the windows 18.

If it is desired to remove a key from the key holder, or to add a further key, the cap 2 must be removed from the base member 1. The recessed portions 12 of the cap 2 enable the cap to be gripped and pulled
05 away from the surface 7 of the base member 1 so that the composite halves of each lug 10 are again pressed together by the ridges 16 to allow removal of the lugs 10 from the holes 9. One end of the chain 5 is then removed from the corresponding recess 8 allowing a key
10 to be removed or a further key to be added to the chain.

Conveniently, the base member 1 and cap 2 may be moulded from a plastics material.

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It will be appreciated that many variations and modifications may be made to the specific embodiment described above without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

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CLAIMS

1. A key holder comprising and elongate connecting
element for carrying keys, a base member and a cap, the
05 cap being removably attachable to the base member, and
the base member and the cap being adapted to cooperate
with one another so as to provide means for the
retention of respective end portions of the said
connecting element.

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2. A key holder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
means for retention of each of the end portions of the
connecting element comprises a partial enclosure
therefor formed by cooperation of the cap and base
15 member.

3. A key holder as claimed in claim 2 wherein the said
means for retention of each of the end portions of the
connecting element comprises a depression in a surface
20 of the base member, the cap being adapted to cooperate
with the said depressions to prevent removal of the end
portions of the connecting element therefrom.

4. A key holder as claimed in any preceding claim
25 wherein the connecting element is a ball-link chain and
each of the said end portions of the connecting element
comprises at least one link of the chain.

5. A key holder as claimed in any preceding claim
30 wherein the cap is removably attachable to the base
member by means of at least one projecting lug on one of
the base member and cap for reception in a corresponding
hole in the other of the base member and cap.

35 6. A key holder as claimed in any preceding claim
wherein the base member and cap cooperate to form the

shape of a hat, the brim of the hat providing a rest for
the elongate connecting element when a key is to be
added to or removed from the connecting element and the
crown of the hat being adapted to provide the said means
05 for retention of respective end portions of the
connecting element.

7. A key holder substantially as hereinbefore
described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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